Texarkana Gazette

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IN THE ARMY'S WAR ON DRUGS—An unidentified GI heroin addict, back to camera, who is undergoing withdrawal symptoms during the Army's crackdown on drugs in South Vietnam's Mekong Delta, asks help from Army Dr. Brian Joseph of Buffalo, N.Y., at the Can Tho Army Airbase. (AP Wirephoto)

Commander rapsabout drugs

Amnesty program progressing in Vietnam

BINH THUY, Vietnam (AP)—Two rock bans blared from the floodlit stage as GIs in full uniforms, parts of uniforms, bleached T-shirts, cutoff jeans, striped bellbottoms and tennis shoes sat on straw mats in the evening darkness and listened to the music and the message.

"All you brothers," said one black performer, "you blue-eyed brothers too. We've got to get together, help each other. We've got to get off this stuff, this skag, this smack, this speed, this grass. It's bad for your body and its bad for your mind."

Inside a half-finished coffee house in a nearby trailer, Maj. Gen. John H. Cushman slouched on a straight-back wooden chair, hands folded behind his head, seating in the heat, surrounded by maybe 100 GIs.

The 50-year-old commander of the 18,000 U.S. troops in the Mekong Delta had come to rap with his men, something he has done almost nightly since a delta-wide drug crackdown—the most extensive yet for GIs in Vietnam—went into effect a week ago.

The GI's around Cushman wore peace beads, headbands and Mickey Mouse T-shirts. They were the heads, the addicts and the ex-addicts that Cushman has been trying to help with his drug crackdown—dubbed the "Delta Dryout."

"If a guy admitted he was an addict and went on the amnesty program," one soldier told Cushman, "and he came back to his unit clean, down, off dope, he'd get harassed more than ever by the lifers, he'd get the lousy jobs, the boring jobs, the rotten details—and he'd be driven right back onto dope."

Cushman is working on these problems, trying to educate NCOs and junior officers to the problems of dealing with drug addicts.

"Sir," said one man in the group, "I'm an E7—sergeant first class. I used to think all these guys were freaks. But that was ignorance. We're learning too—we all have to learn—that these are social and medical problems. We're all in this together, and we all have to learn together."

"Good," said Cushman. "Good for you. Goddamn it, there's a man who admits he doesn't have all the answers. Hell, none of us have all the answers. Anybody who doesn't have some doubts there's something wrong with him."

"I've come down by myself, sir," one GI told Cushman, "not on the amnesty program. I decided to do it even before this program went into effect."

"How long did it take you to get hooked?" the general asked. "Maybe a couple of weeks."

"How many vials were you smoking?"

"Three a day."

Cushman nodded his head, rubbed his eyes, and asked, "How about you other people? How many have smoked smack?" A show of hands. "How long does it take to get hooked?"

"It depends on the guy, it depends on how much he's smoking," one GI said. "Sometimes a couple of days, sometimes a couple of weeks. It depends."

"We won't be hooked when we get back to the states," another GI contended. "It's too expensive. Hell, I know. My wife's a pusher."

Welfare legislation causes debate on how much government can do

WASHINGTON (AP) — House passage of welfare legislation with heavy emphasis on converting adult recipients into self-supporting workers has fueled a longstanding debate as to how much the government actually can do directly to create jobs.

Opponents of the legislation aimed a double-barrelled argument against the idea that "workfare," through mandatory training and job assignment could free from dependence any substantial proportion of the more than 13 million welfare recipients.

Only about 13 per cent, they contend, are even theoretically employable, the rest consisting of children, aged, blind and disabled, and persons caring for them.

Even if the 13 per cent, mostly welfare mothers, could be made available for work by training and provision of child day care, the opponents ask, where would they find jobs?

They cited a nagging 6 per cent national unemployment rate with much higher figures for blacks and for central cities where the welfare population is concentrated.

The bill itself recognizes this argument indirectly by providing for 200,000 public service jobs, according to the theory of the legislation, states and local governments, helped by federal financing, could hire that many persons to do needed work now going undone without displacing any regular employes.

The public jobs concept has found favor with the Democratic-controlled Congress, but has led to clashes with President Nixon's administration.

Nixon vetoed a public jobs bill last year. Now a new one for 150,000 such employment opportunities, in addition to those for welfare recipients, has been passed by both houses and is expected to go to the President this week. Republicans indicate Nixon probably will sign this one.

Still another job-creating bill is on Nixon's desk with its fate uncertain. It is a measure to accelerate public works, opening up an estimated 200,000 to 300,000 jobs in the construction industries.

The administration has preferred to seek the cooperation of private business in creating employment opportunities, working with the National Alliance of Businessmen which seeks openings among 20,000 firms.

NAB has agreed to try to find employment for at least 100,000 Vietnam-era veterans in the next year. Its earlier three-year goal of placing and retaining 614,000 hard-core unemployed was not met but the volunteer organization reported it had been instrumental in the hiring of 664,000 persons, of whom 270,000 still are on the job.

Inmates escape: captured at FCI

Three convicts escaped from the inner compound of the Federal Correctional Institute Sunday night but were recaptured before they could leave FCI property, according to L. M. Connett, warden.

Samuel C. Methvin, of Narco, La., serving a 10-year sentence for bank robbery, received superficial gunshot wounds during the 10-minute escape attempt. He was taken to Wadley Hospital and later released to the care of FCI's infirmary, said Connett.

Involved in the attempt were Methvin, Edwin F. Colvin of Corpus Christi, Tex., who is serving four years for mail theft, and Robert E. Doran of Baytown, Tex., sentenced to five years imprisonment for illegal interstate shipment.

Ball says LBJ was honest

NEW YORK (AP) — Former Undersecretary of State George W. Ball, discussing the Pentagon study on Vietnam, said that the Johnson administration never deliberately deceived the American public on Vietnam and moved reluctantly to commit more U.S. troops there.

"What Johnson said was entirely honest," said Ball, referring to former President Lyndon B. Johnson's position in the 1964 presidential campaign against a larger U.S. involvement in Vietnam.

"… but anyone who didn't plan for all contingencies would have been derelict," he said.

He was very reluctant to accept a proposal to go forward but did so because the situation in Vietnam was deteriorating.

Ball spoke on CBS-TV's Face the Nation.

He said the lifeless prose of the secret Pentagon study on Vietnam published in the New York Times and elsewhere had "distorted" Johnson's deep concern for moral considerations in Vietnam.

"President Johnson was desperately concerned about widening the war in Vietnam," he said.

The Times and Washington Post, in a landmark case of the government's right to maintain state secrets versus freedom of the press, awaited a ruling in U.S. Supreme Court on government motions to halt further publication of the Pentagon study.

The court, after a [illegible] hour hearing on Saturday, recessed until Monday and gave no indication when it would rule in the case.

Meanwhile, the Federal Bureau of Investigation said Sunday it was still trying to locate Daniel Ellsberg, a former Pentagon researcher charged in a federal warrant of unauthorized possession of top secret documents and failure to return them.

Ball said he personally favored automatic declassification of all government material except for some very categories, and he said of the Pentagon Study disclosures, "I would think it presented very little danger to the United States. On the whole, I would imagine it was healthy."

Ball recalled that he had urged President Johnson privately on several occasions "to cut our losses and get out of Vietnam for three reasons: the country's strategic location, fear that a pullout would harm other U.S. commitments around the world, and concern over a loss of prestige."

3 Texarkanians charged in Fouke Monster hoax

Three Texarkana men were charged with disturbing the peace after inflicting scraches on each other in an attempt to make themselves look like Fouke Monster victims, Arkansas State Police officer Marvin Sinyard said Sunday.

Two men and their driver notified Bob Bowen, Fouke marshal, of an attack by the Fouke monster. The report was called about 11 p.m. Saturday. Bowen called the Miller County Sheriff's office and the Arkansas State Police.

The officers searched the scene of the alleged assault, but uncovered no evidence, according to Sinyard.

A check of material beneath two of the men's fingernails led officers to believe the incident was a hoax. The three men, aged 19, 28, and 48, were charged with disturbing the peace and are scheduled to appear before judge Bert Larey today, according to Sinyard.

Guard firebases

South Vietnamese hold back enemy

SAIGON (AP) — Two companies of South Vietnamese marines repulsed a strong enemy attack in the embattled sector below the demilitarized zone where North Vietnamese forces threaten a string of allied firebases, military spokesmen said Sunday.

Saigon command spokesman Lt. Col. Le Trung Hien claimed 79 enemy were killed in the fighting Saturday nine miles south of the DMZ near Firebase Sarge. The marines, who were supported by U.S. artillery, helicopter gunships and jet fighter bombers, suffered three dead and 22 wounded.

Hien said they captured 10 enemy rocket launchers, a flame thrower, four machine guns and assorted individual weapons and ammunition.

U.S. B52 bombers struck twice at suspected North Vietnamese rocket and mortar positions near Sarge and flew four missions around abandoned Firebase Fuller six miles to the north.

No new fighting was reported around Fuller although enemy troops were still believed to be in the area. The outpost has been pounded almost continuously by American bombers and allied artillery since it was overrun by North Vietnamese forces last Wednesday night.

South Vietnamese headquarters issued a weekly summary of ground fighting claiming 124 enemy were killed in northern Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces and 183 enemy were killed in Quang Tin and Quang Ngai provinces. The summary said South Vietnamese casualties were light but gave no figures.

In Saigon terrorists exploded a grenade mounted on a motor scooter Saturday morning, wounding three civilians, including a child.

Partly cloudy and warm

TEXARKANA WEATHER—Clear to partly cloudy and continued warm. Expected high, low 90's, low, low 70's. Yesterdays high, 92, low 72, rainfall .00 period ending 10 p.m.

SW ARKANSAS—Clear to partly cloudy and warm. Expected high low 90's, low, low 70's.

NE TEXAS—Continued warm, humid and clear. Expected high mid 90's, low, low 70's.

NW LOUISIANA—Warm and partly cloudy. Expected high low 90's, low, mid 70's.

SE OKLAHOMA—Warm with clear to partly cloudy skies. Expected high, low 90's, low, low 70's.

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Carries 'confidential messages'

Agnew begins world-wide tour

HONOLULU (AP) — Vice President Spiro T. Agnew flew across the Pacific Sunday bearing "confidential messages" from President Nixon to world leaders. He said he expects to discuss the possibility of South Korean troop withdrawals from Vietnam with Korean leaders this week on the first stop of his round-the-world trip.

Asked about the likelihood that withdrawal of part of the 48,000-man Korean force would come up in his talks in Seoul, Agnew told reporters at El Toro Marine Air Station in California that "it's legitimate to expect that subject will come under consideration," he said the talks would be "quite extensive."

Then, accompanied by the remainder of the U.S. delegation to Thursday's third term inauguration of Korean President Chung Hee Park, Agnew took off aboard Air Force Two on a 31-day trip that will take him to 11 countries before he returns to Washington on July 28.

After a refueling stop at Hickam Air Force Base here, Agnew headed across the international date line and a Monday night stopover on the western Pacific island of Guam before he goes to Korea on Tuesday.

After Korea he will make official visits to nine other Asian, African and European countries, plus a refueling stop in India.

In Hawaii, the vice president was greeted by Lt. Gen. Charles A. Corcoran, chief of staff of the U.S. Pacific Command, and received the traditional Hawaiian greeting of leis and performances by Hula dancers.

In California, Agnew said "the objective is to touch base in a diplomatic sense and to take some confidential messages from the President to the chiefs of states of those countries-nothing of any tremendous moment but just a continuing effort to maintain the best possible liaison with those chiefs of state."

Korean leaders are expected to raise the question of possible storing of U.S. tactical nuclear weapons now on Okinawa, in addition to the Vietnam troop situation.

"We will be there long enough to discuss just about everything that is of interest between the two countries," Agnew said.

South Korea has two infantry divisions and a Marine brigade totalling about 50,000 men in South Vietnam operating mainly along the central and northern coasts of that country.

He said the visit in Korea will be "long enough to discuss just about everything that is of interest to the two countries."

Agnew said he expects to find U.S. prestige as high in the countries he is visiting as on two previous foreign trips.

Agnew will represent President Nixon at Thursday's ceremonies in which President Park will be sworn in for a third four-year term.

Agnew is expected to talk to Korean leaders about the rumored plan to transfer tactical U.S. nuclear weapons from Okinawa to Korea, also.

Agnew was accompanied on Air Force Two by other members of the U.S. delegation to President Park's inauguration, including former Gov. Winthrop Rockefeller of Arkansas, former presidential aide Bryce Harlow and Reps. Samuel Devine, R-Ohio, and D. Elliot Hagan, D-Ga. Sen. James L. Buckley, R-N.Y., will joint the delegation in Seoul.

After a six-day stay in the Korean capital, Agnew is scheduled to fly to Singapore for a two-day rest stop. Aides said there are no plans for a visit to Vietnam, where the vice president has stopped off on each of his first two overseas trips.

After a refueling stop in Bombay, India, Agnew plans to visit Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, the Congo, Spain, Morocco and Portugal.

BEFORE LEAVING ON TOUR—Vice President Spiro T. Agnew talks to newsmen before boarding Air Force Two Sunday for his trip around the world. Agnew told reporters just before leaving he will be carrying "some confidential messages" from President Nixon to world leaders he will meet in 10 Asian, African and European nations. (AP Wirephoto)

F14 fighter planes will cost more than thought in 1969

BETH PAGE, N.Y., (AP) — The Navy F14 was one mile away from the Grumman Corp. runway, and the end of its second test flight, when three pencil-thin hydraulic lines held against vibration to the point set for them by slide rules, and ruptured.

As pink hydraulic fluid streaked the left side of the fuselage, the jet fighter dipped its nose and plunged 200 feet to the ground, sending black smoke and orange flame 10 stories high.

An F14 prototype flew before the crash and others have flown since, but the accident last December came as the Pentagon began a second hard look toward making a fresh money judgment on the expensive fighter.

Grumman had served notice that the F14 would cost more than the original contract price. The Pentagon, still smarting from congressional criticism of cost overruns on Lockheed's C5 transport, wanted to examine alternatives, such as cutting back on its orders.

There have been no cost overruns on the F14 yet. Grumman said it will deliver the first 38 planes for which money has already been appropriated at the agreed price. But the rest of them will cost much more.

When the government signed the F14 contract in 1969, the Navy said the aircraft, its weapons, support equipment, spares, pro-rated research and development costs would run $11.1 million per plane if 710 were bought. In December, Navy Secretary John Chafee said the package price had gone up to $11.5 million.

Last Wednesday, having completed his study of the program, Deputy Secretary of Defense David M. Packard announced that the per-unit price of the F14 had reached $14.3 million.

What began in 1969 as a program calling for a total outlay of $8.3 billion now stands at $10.3 billion. To date, $1.5 billion has been spent.

Packard announced that the Navy would hold Grumman to the contract for all 710 planes; cutting back on orders or stretching out production would be more costly in the long run, he said, and the Navy couldn't agree on a new contract with Grumman.

Grumman declined to comment on Packard's announcement, company officials said Grumman will not deliver more than the first 38 planes unless the contract is renegotiated to take current economic trends into account, and it will go to court if necessary.

It may not have to. Two weeks ago, Rep. F. Edward Hebert, D-La., chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, steered through the House an amendment deleting $806 million earmarked for the next 48 jets, saying "We're not going to have another Lockheed fiasco on our hands."

But defense officials say that if that production money is not approved by Oct. 1, Grumman can declare its contract breached.

Critics of the F14, led by Sens. Proxmire, Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., Vance Hartke, D-Ind., have urged the Pentagon to let the F14 prove itself and then buy it.